

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 012752

64

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TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SC, XF

SUBJECT: PAKISTANI PROBE ON US ATTITUDE TOWARDS MODERATE
ARAB RESOLUTION AT SECURITY COUNCIL

1. PAKISTANI CHARGE RIZA CALLED ON ATHERTON JANUARY 16 TO EXPLORE LATEST USG THINKING ON MIDDLE EAST SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE. RIZA SAID PAK MISSION AT UN BELIEVES VOTE ON SOME KIND OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION IS INEVITABLE AND INDICATED PAKISTANI DESIRE TO BE HELPFUL TO US. HE SAID EXTREMIST ARABS WERE ARGUING THAT SINCE US VETO IS INEVITABLE THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION SHOULD REFLECT TOTAL ARAB VIEWS. ACCORDING TO RIZA, MODERATE ARABS BELIEVE ARAB CAUSE BETTER SERVED BY MODERATE RESOLUTION. RIZA SAID THAT PAKISTANI DELEGATION WOULD LIKE TO STRENGTHEN HAND OF MODERATES, AND ASKED WHAT PAK DELEGATION COULD TELL ARAB MODERATES ABOUT US ATTITUDE THAT MIGHT ENCOURAGE EMERGENCE OF MODERATE RESOLUTION.

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PAGE 02 STATE 012752

2. ATHERTON SAID WE APPRECIATED PAKISTANI DESIRE TO BE

HELPFUL AND WANTED TO BE SURE REASONS FOR AND OBJECTIVES
OF OUR POSITION WERE UNDERSTOOD. HE THEN REVIEWED IN
DETAIL US ATTITUDE ON CURRENT MIDDLE EAST DEBATE ALONG
LINES REPORTED FULLY IN OTHER MESSAGES, PLACING EMPHASIS

ON WELL-KNOWN US INTENTION TO BLOCK RESOLUTION THAT
MIGHT DAMAGE NEGOTIATING FRAMEWORK. LOOKING FURTHER
AHEAD, HE STRESSED US DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE
NEGOTIATING PROCESS FOLLOWING SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE,
AND SAID US ATTITUDE TOWARD ANY RESOLUTION, THEREFORE,
WOULD BE DETERMINED BY OUR JUDGMENT AS TO WHETHER OR NOT
RESOLUTION DAMAGES BASIC GENEVA CONFERENCE FRAMEWORK FOR
NEGOTIATIONS BASED ON RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338. THAT
FRAMEWORK HAD BEEN CONSTRUCTED WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY OVER
RECENT YEARS AND HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BY ALL STATES DIRECTLY
INVOLVED IN THE CONFLICT. TO CHANGE OR AMPLIFY IT IN
WAYS THAT MADE IT UNACCEPTABLE TO ONE PARTY WOULD
SERIOUSLY UNDERMINE OUR ABILITY TO REVIVE NEGOTIATING
PROCESS AFTER THE DEBATE, AND IT WAS ONLY IN SUCH A
PROCESS--IN WHICH ALL ISSUES COULD BE CONSIDERED--THAT
PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE WOULD BE MADE.

3. IN REPLY TO SPECIFIC QUESTION REGARDING US ATTITUDE
ON POSSIBLE MODERATE RESOLUTION, ATHERTON SAID WE WOULD
OF COURSE HAVE TO SEE FULL TEXT OF SUCH RESOLUTION AND
THEN MAKE DETERMINATION. HE BELIEVED, HOWEVER, THAT
EMERGENCE OF RESOLUTION THAT US WOULD NOT RPT NOT HAVE
TO VETO UNLIKELY ON BASIS OF IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS
CURRENTLY UNDER DISCUSSION IN UN CORRIDORS.

4. RIZA SAID HE WOULD ADVISE THE PAK MISSION IN NEW
YORK OF ATHERTON'S RESPONSE, OBSERVING THAT IN
CIRCUMSTANCES THERE DID NOT SEEM TO BE ANYTHING PAKISTAN
COULD DO TO HELP. KISSINGER

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